

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An article for use in an aquatic environment comprising a translucent polymer material that is configured to visually reproduce a form of aquarium life.
2. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material comprises a pliable polymer material.
3. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material is capable of substantially retaining its shape.
4. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a sea anemone.
5. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a sea plant.
6. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a sea weed.
7. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a coral.

8. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a scallop.

9. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a clam.

10. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a sea cucumber.

11. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to visually reproduce comprises a sea apple.

12. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to substantially resemble comprises a jellyfish.

13. The article of claim 1, wherein the form of aquarium life that the translucent polymer material is configured to substantially resemble comprises a nudibranch.

14. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material further comprises a color dye.

15. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material further comprises a fluorescent dye.

16. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material further comprises a glow-in-the-dark dye.

17. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material further comprises nibble inhibitors.

18. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material is formed at least in part of a material selected from the group consisting of silicone, latex, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, memory gel, and Plastigoop®.

19. The article of claim 1, wherein the translucent polymer material is formed at least in part of a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic and elastomer.

20. A method for making an article for use in an aquatic environment, wherein the article is configured to visually reproduce a type of aquarium life, comprising:

melting a translucent polymer material;

closing a mold, wherein the mold has one or more recesses that are in the form of the type of aquarium life;

injecting the melted translucent polymer material into the mold;

cooling the mold to solidify the translucent polymer material;

opening the mold; and

removing the solidified translucent polymer material.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising injecting a dye into the mold.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the dye is injected before the translucent polymer material is injected.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the dye is injected as the translucent polymer material is injected.
24. The method of claim 21, wherein the dye is injected after the translucent polymer material is injected.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein the dye comprises a color dye.
26. The method of claim 20, wherein the dye comprises a fluorescent dye.
27. The method of claim 20, wherein the type of aquarium life that the article is configured to visually reproduce is selected from the group consisting of a sea anemone, a sea plant, a sea weed, a coral, a scallop, a clam, a sea cucumber, a sea apple, a nudibranch, and a jellyfish.
28. A method for making an article for use in an aquatic environment, wherein the article is configured to visually reproduce a type of aquarium life, comprising:

closing a mold, wherein the mold has one or more recesses that are in the form of the type of aquarium life;

introducing a curable translucent polymer material into the mold;
heating the mold to solidify the curable translucent polymer material;
cooling the mold;
opening the mold; and
removing the solidified translucent polymer material.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising introducing a dye into the mold.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the dye comprises a color dye.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the dye comprises a fluorescent dye.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the dye comprises a glow-in-the-dark dye.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein the type of aquarium life that the article is configured to reproduce is selected from the group consisting of a sea anemone, a sea plant, a sea weed, a coral, a scallop, a clam, a sea cucumber, a sea apple, a nudibranch, and a jellyfish.

34. A method for making an article for use in an aquatic environment, wherein the article is configured to reproduce a type of aquarium life, comprising:

melting a translucent polymer material;
extruding the melted translucent polymer material through a heated die;

cooling the extruded translucent polymer material to solidify it;

whereby the article is formed from the extruded, solidified translucent polymer material.

35. A method for making an article for use in an aquatic environment, wherein the article is configured to reproduce a type of aquarium life, comprising:

melting a translucent polymer material;

closing a mold, wherein the mold has one or more recesses that are in the form of the type of aquarium life;

introducing the melted translucent polymer material into the mold;

injecting air into the mold to cause the translucent polymer material to coat one or more walls of the mold;

cooling the mold to solidify the translucent polymer material;

opening the mold; and

removing the solidified translucent polymer material.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising filling the solidified translucent polymer material with a gelatinous material.

37. An article for use in an aquatic environment comprising a means for visually reproducing a form of aquarium life, wherein the means confers a translucent property to the article.

38. An article for use in an aquatic environment comprising a means for reproducing a form of aquarium life, wherein the means confers a pliable property to the article.

39. The article of claim 37, wherein the form of aquarium life is selected from the group consisting of a sea anemone, a sea plant, a sea weed, a coral, a scallop, a clam, a sea cucumber, a sea apple, a nudibranch, and a jellyfish.

40. The article of claim 37, wherein the means for reproducing a form of aquarium life is formed at least in part of a material selected from the group consisting of silicone, latex, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, memory gel, and Plastigoop®.